



# ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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Produced by the Kentucky Department of Education

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## Statewide teacher and effectiveness system bill signed

Advocating that all Kentucky children deserve to be taught by an effective teacher at a school led by an effective principal, Gov. Steve Beshear once again indicated his support for a statewide system promoting educator growth and effectiveness in Kentucky.

Beshear signed [House Bill 180](#) during a private ceremonial bill signing in his office recently.

House Bill 180 clears the way for a new statewide effectiveness system to be used for all certified personnel starting in the 2014-15 school year. The system is being designed to promote the continuous professional growth and development of skills needed to be a highly effective teacher or a highly effective administrator in a school or district. The legislation calls for multiple measures of effectiveness, including student growth data, and meets one of the main requirements for Kentucky's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) waiver.

"Current evaluation systems in Kentucky do not provide our educators the information they need to support their professional growth and effectiveness and in turn, to support increases in student achievement," Kentucky Department of Education (KDE)

**See *Teacher effectiveness* on Page 4**



## Three Kentucky schools earn national Green Ribbon honor

Three Kentucky schools are among 64 nationwide that have been named 2013 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools. The program honors schools exemplary in reducing environmental impact and costs; improving the health and wellness of students and staff; and providing effective environmental and sustainability education, which incorporates STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

Kentucky's National Green Ribbon Schools are:

- Cane Run Elementary (Jefferson County)
- Locust Trace AgriScience Farm (Fayette County)
- Northern Elementary (Scott County)

The 2013 National Green Ribbon Schools will be recognized during a national award ceremony scheduled for June 3. In announcing winners, U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan lauded the honorees for modeling a comprehensive approach to being green.

This is the second year for the U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools program.

Resources for all schools to move toward the three pillars in which the 2013 honorees are exemplary can be found [here](#).

More information on the federal recognition award can be found [here](#).

The list of all 2013 National Green Ribbon schools and districts, as well as their nomination information, can be found [here](#).

## Floyd joins KDE as new chief of staff

Thomas G. "Tommy" Floyd has been named to the newly created position of chief of staff at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE).

Floyd is the Madison County school district superintendent.

Education Commissioner Terry Holliday said the position is needed due to the large number of initiatives that KDE is implementing related to Senate Bill 1; the state's Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) flexibility waiver; and the "increasing need to collaborate and coordinate with our stakeholders and partner groups."

Floyd will begin as chief of staff at KDE July 1.



Tommy Floyd

## Agriculture poster, essay contest winners announced

Agriculture Commissioner James Comer honored the winners of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's annual Poster and Essay Contest at the annual Kentucky Agriculture Day luncheon recently in Frankfort.

Statewide winners in each grade were awarded \$100 each.

To find out more about the Poster and Essay Contest, [click here](#).

Public school essay contest winners in each grade were:

1st grade – Isis Carballo, Custer Elementary School, Breckinridge County

2nd grade – Vincent Mayfield, Deer Park Elementary, Daviess County

3rd grade – Andy Peeples, Deer Park Elementary, Daviess County

8th grade – Tucker Woolum, Pineville Middle School, Bell County

10th grade – Aaron Elswick, LaRue County High School

11th grade – April Webb, LaRue County High School

12th grade – Laura Jane Phelps, Woodford County High School

Poster contest winners and schools in each grade were:

1st grade – Benjamin Wheat, Squires Elementary School, Fayette County

3rd grade – Zoe Barker, Deer Park Elementary, Daviess County

4th grade – Jacob DeFevers, Austin Tracy Elementary School, Barren County

6th grade – Anna Avery, Memorial School, Hart County



*Photo submitted by The Kentucky Department of Agriculture*

Agriculture Commissioner James Comer, right, presents student Holden Underwood with a \$1,000 check as Michael Morgan of Bonnie Plants looks on. Underwood, a student at Cox's Creek Elementary School (Nelson County), earned the check for winning the 3rd Grade Cabbage Contest. His cabbage weighed 20.5 pounds.

7th grade – Maria Campos, Warren East Middle School, Warren County

8th grade – Heather Bensinger, King Middle School, Mercer County

9th grade – Anna Lee, Metcalfe County High School

10th grade – Emily Jeter, Metcalfe County High School

11th grade – Allison Davis, Mercer County High School

12th grade – Taylor DeWeese, Metcalfe County High School

### Kentucky Department of Education

**Address:** Division of Communications, 500 Mero St., 6th floor, CPT Frankfort, KY 40601

**Phone:** (502) 564-2000, ext. 4621

**Fax:** (502) 564-3049

**Contact:** [susan.riddell@education.ky.gov](mailto:susan.riddell@education.ky.gov)





## Kids can brush up on love of horses

[Horse Tales](#) is an online meeting place where K-12 students can meet, learn about and enjoy horses.

*Horse Tales* was created as a way of making students aware of the Kentucky Horse Park, its "residents" and opportunities centering on Kentucky's equine industry. This site is "under construction," so more features will be added, including a College and Careers tab with educational and vocational focus on the equine industry.

With a click of a button, students everywhere can learn more about some of the beautiful horses at the Kentucky Horse Park. It may even lead students to create and contribute their own experiences and feelings about horses they know, whether in real-life or in their imaginations.

Digital stories and horse-themed games also will be added regularly.

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## News of interest in brief

- Carroll County High School was recently named one of *The Washington Post's* Most Challenging Schools.
- According to a U.S. News report, duPont Manual High School (Jefferson County) ranks as Kentucky's top high school. In the fifth edition of its [Best High Schools](#) rankings, duPont Manual High was nationally ranked at 169. South Oldham High School (Oldham County) was ranked 406, followed by Jefferson County school district's Ballard High School at 487, Brown School at 493 and Eastern High School at 504. For complete Kentucky rankings, go [here](#).
- Last week, Gov. Steve Beshear formally inducted Frank X Walker as Kentucky's poet laureate.

## *Teacher effectiveness, from Page 1*

Commissioner Terry Holliday said. "This bill is the basis for a system that provides teachers, administrators and districts the data and tools needed to improve."

The bill's sponsor, former state Representative and House Education Committee Chairman Carl Rollins, Holliday and key partners were on hand for the signing. (Rollins resigned last week to accept the appointment as chief executive of the Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation and executive director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.)

For several years, two steering committees composed of state teachers and principals have worked with KDE and other educational partners to put an educator effectiveness framework in place to serve as the foundation for a new system.

The resulting Professional Growth and Effectiveness System ([PGES](#)) is a comprehensive statewide system to help teachers understand and implement the framework and make changes necessary for all students in Kentucky to become college and career ready. PGES is designed to move educators from simply being qualified to becoming highly effective.

The system, which is being field-tested in 54 school districts this year, will be piloted statewide in the 2013-14 school year.

As part of its continued development and per House Bill 180, the Kentucky Board of Education will create regulations governing PGES.